





FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA**

---

NORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

# CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA

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NORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

Mr. Dave Ashley  
Acting City Manager  
Helena, Montana

Dear Mr. Ashley:

I am submitting herein the 1979 Annual Report of the Helena Fire Department. This report contains statistical data and information relating to the various operations and activities for the year 1979.

The Helena Fire Department has gone through some major changes during 1979. We are now operating out of our new East Side Fire Station which has caused us to completely change our operational procedure. We moved into the new facility on August 15, 1979. The first response from the East Side station was on August 18, 1979 at 11:25 A.M. and was an accident injury call to National & Lyndale.

Another major change was the retirement of Chief Robert Killeen. Bob was a hard working Chief and was responsible for the advancements which we now enjoy. During Bob's tenure as Chief we purchased a new four wheel drive 1250 GPM pumper, 2 new four wheel drive mini pumpers, and a new 85' Aerial Tower. He was also responsible for the remodeling of the Main Fire Station and the building of the East Side Fire Station. Through Bob's leadership and the co-operation of former City Manager Al Thelen the Helena Fire Department is one of the most modern and up to date Fire Departments in the State of Montana.

Our goals for the coming year are to expand our inspection program and to expand the training program as well as to continue the ongoing programs of the Helena Fire Department.

Because of the dedication to their job as firefighters, the men of the Helena Fire Department can be very proud as can the citizens of the City of Helena. I would like to thank these men for the job they have done in the past and feel sure that this dedication will carry on into the future.

I would also like to thank your office, the City Commission, and the City Employees for helping make the Helena Fire Department a progressive function of the City of Helena, a Fire Department which we can all be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,

*Norm Gray*  
Norm Gray  
Chief



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

MAYOR

RICH BROWN

COMMISSION

MIKE DESILVA  
DALE JOHNSON  
JIM NYBO  
RUSS RITTER

ACTING CITY MANAGER

DAVE ASHLEY



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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JOHN C. TODD  
ASST FIRE CHIEF

## HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF  
NORM GRAY

ASST. CHIEF  
JOHN TODD

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER  
ROBERT KNUDSON

### COMBAT

#### SHIFT #1

Capt. Lee Crawford

Lt. Rich Coe

FF 1/C Ted Simpson

FF Jim Skinner

Mech. Ron Morris

FF Doug Duncan

FF Don Gage

FF Warren Ziegler

#### SHIFT # 2

Capt. Ed Wordal

Lt. Ron Jacobsen

FF 1/C Joe Cross

FF Dennis Sorrels

FF Don Hurni

FF Dale Klugman

FF Jay Moore

FF Mike Spotorno

#### SHIFT #3

Capt. Bob Pare

Lt. Don Holshue

FF 1/C Art Krieger

FF Mike Foster

FF Bob Olson

FF Butch Warfield

FF Harry Crawford

FF Norb Roth

**CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA**NORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEFJOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEFFIRE APPARATUS1979

<u>APPARATUS #</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>TYPE APPARATUS</u>	<u>DISCRIPTION</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Engine 31	Main	Mini Pumper	Chevrolet	1979
Engine 32	Main	1250 Pumper	Seagraves	1975
Engine 33	Main	1000 Pumper	Superior	1979
A.T. 34	Main	85' Tower	Sutphen	1976
Engine 36	E.S.	Mini Pumper	Dodge	1976
Engine 37	E.S.	1000 Pumper	F.W.D.	1962
Ladder 38	E.S.	75' Ladder	Pirsch	1946
#27	Main	Chief's car	Buick	1969
#28	Main	Asst. Chief car	Plymouth	1973
#29	Main	F.P. Car	Dodge van	1971
---	E.S.	Utility	Chev pickup	1968

A new 1250 G.P.M Pumper shou'd be delivered to us sometime in 1980.



# CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA

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FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASST FIRE CHIEF

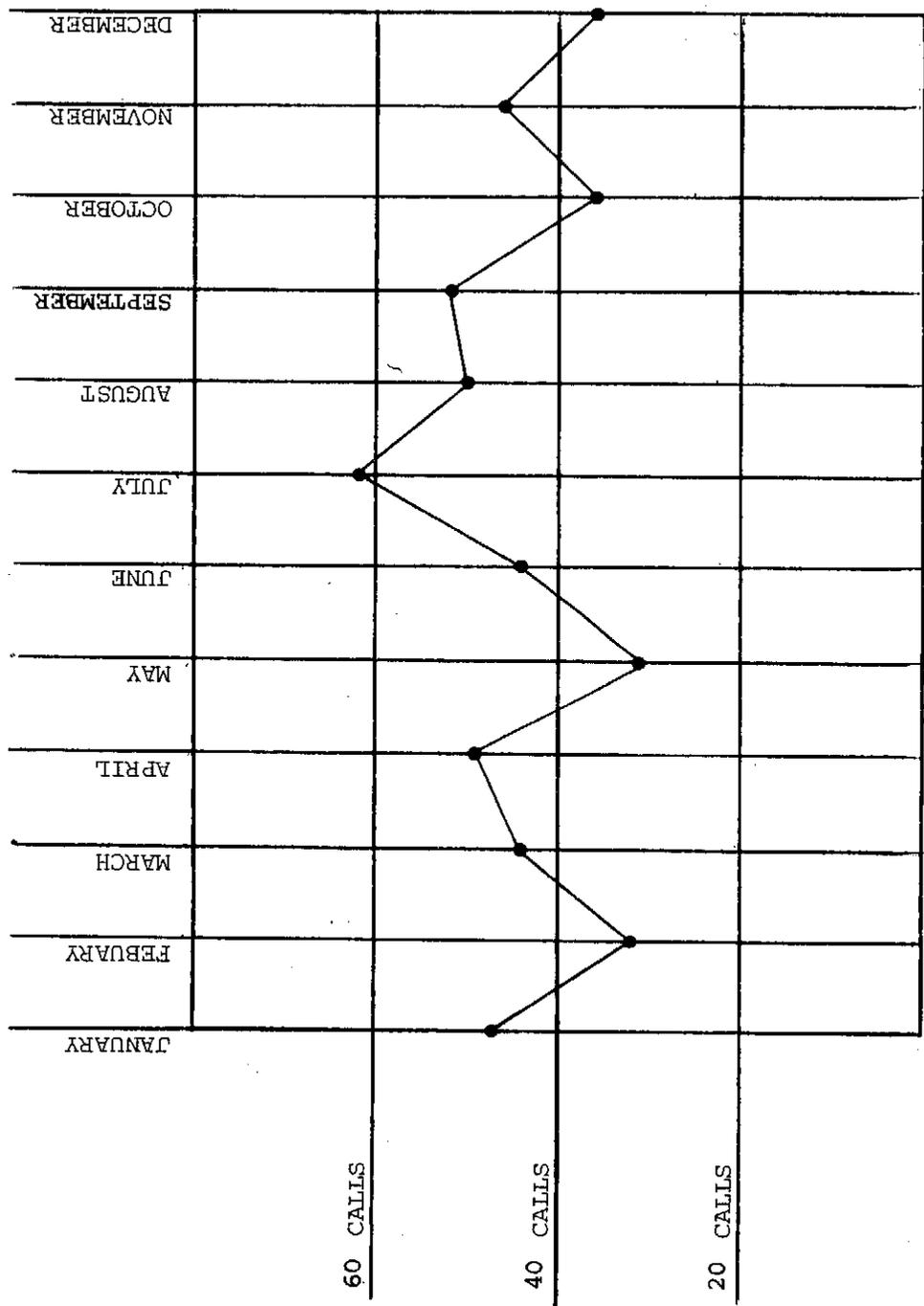
## BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Fire Department personell take pride in keeping their buildings and premises clean and orderly. These facilities are the firefighters home away from home. Many man hours are spent each year performing these duties.

Building maintenance costs, utility costs and janitorial costs are up substancialy from last year due to the opening of the new East-side Fire Station.

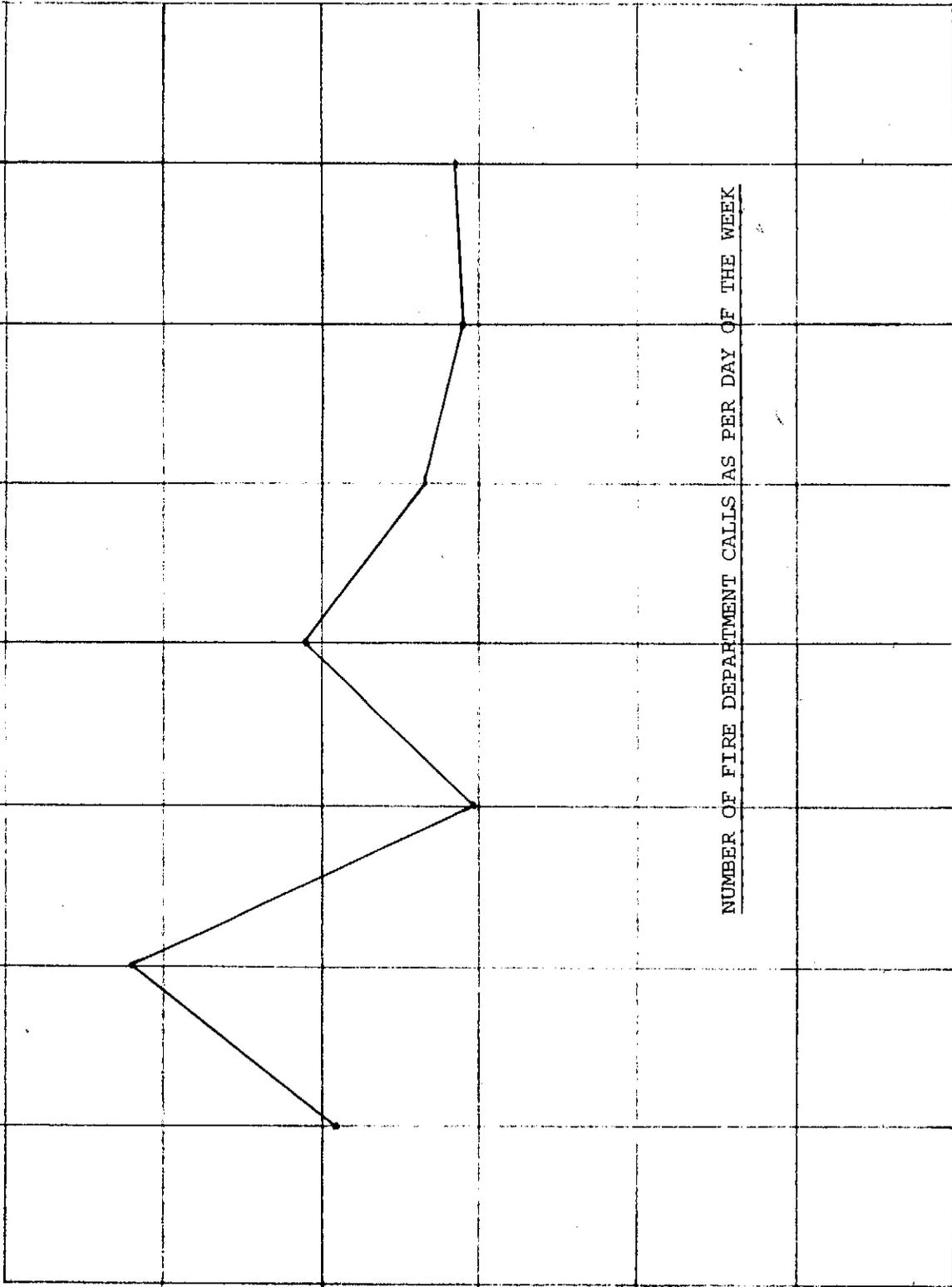
BUILDING MAINTENANCE COSTS:	July to December	\$333.10
UTILITY COSTS:	July to December	\$10,273.79 Estimated
JANITORIAL COSTS:	July to December	\$776.50

MAN HOURS SPENT IN BUILDING MAINTENANCE IN 1979: 2862 man hours



NUMBER OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS AS PER MONTH

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



100 CALLS

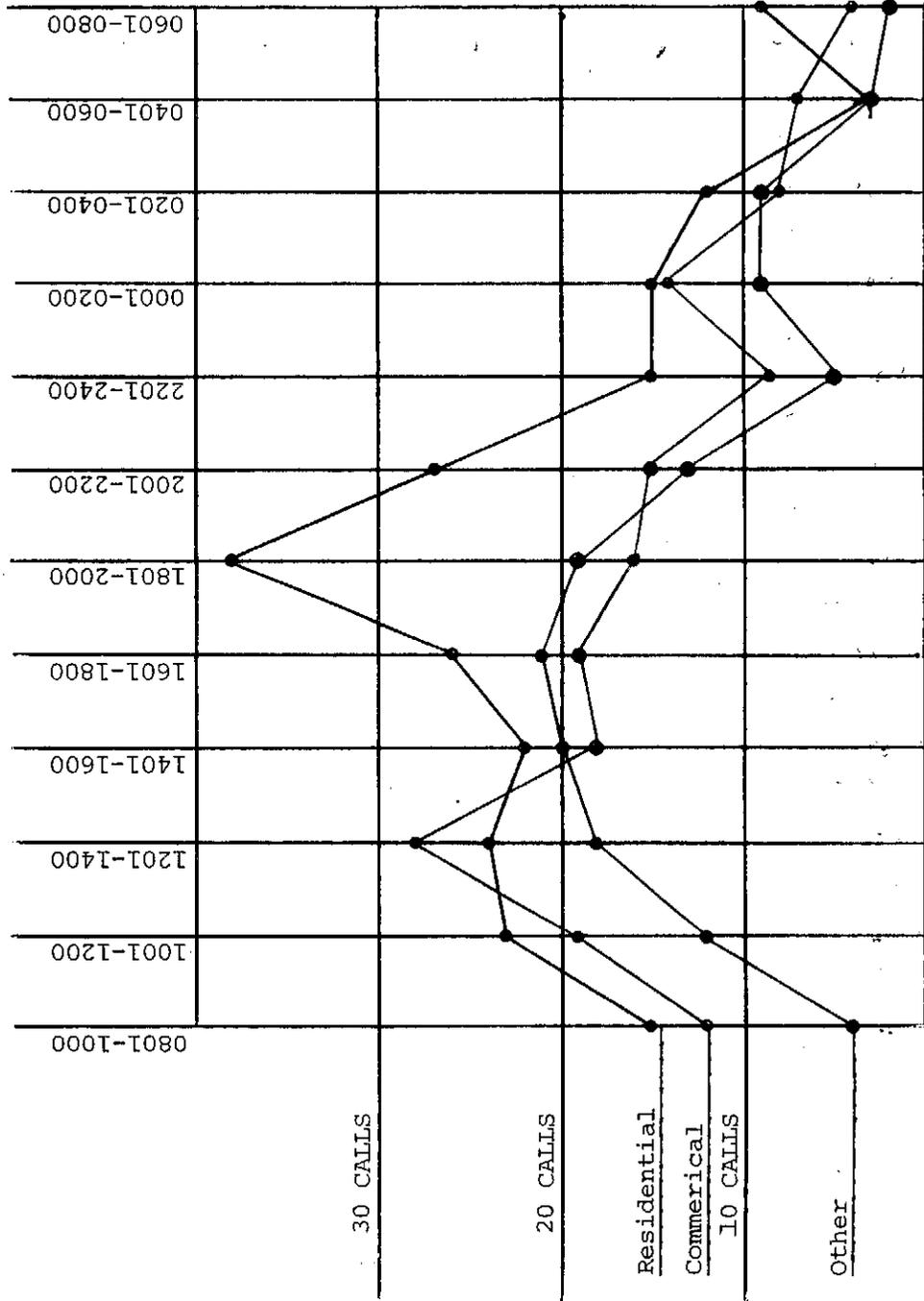
80 CALLS

60 CALLS

40 CALLS

20 CALLS

NUMBER OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS AS PER DAY OF THE WEEK



NUMBER OF FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS AS PER HOUR OF DAY



FIRE DEPARTMENT

# CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA

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FIRE CHIEF

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ASST FIRE CHIEF

## FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM

The purpose of the fire hydrant program is to flush the hydrants and take pressure readings at each hydrant. When the hydrants are flushed we find out if there is anything wrong. If there is a problem with the hydrant a repair order is made out and turned over to the Water Department. This system not only makes the Fire Department aware of problem hydrants but also makes the Water Department aware of the bad hydrants so they can be repaired. When repairs are made the Water Department contacts us and we will know that in case of a fire we will be able to use that particular hydrant.

The purpose of taking pressure readings at each hydrant is it helps us determine which hydrants would serve us best in each area. It has proven very valuable to us in pre-planning target hazards. Another way we use the pressure readings is to help us determine water requirements in new building construction.

A total of 722 fire hydrants were flowed by shift members this year 53 repair orders were written and turned over to the Water Department. Of the 53 repair orders, 19 were considered out of service, 9 were in need of major repairs, and 25 were in need of minor repairs. To date 29 hydrants have been repaired by the Water Department.

We hope we will be able to continue this program but by sending two men out flowing hydrants we are left with only two men in each station to respond to fire calls. Hopefully we can solve this problem in the future.

**FIRE PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANANORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEFJOHN C. TODD  
ASST FIRE CHIEFFIRE INCIDENT STATISTICAL REPORTSOURCE OF ALARM

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Telephone-Fire Department.....	347	364
Telephone- Police Department.....	115	51
Alarm Board.....	48	64
Radio.....	6	22
Direct Report.....	4	3
Other.....	3	0
Total	<u>523</u>	<u>504</u>

TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND

Fire, explosion, etc.....	201	192
Smoke scare.....	82	92
Rescue, crash, emergency.....	38	24
Hazardous condition.....	82	90
Public Service.....	14	11
Alarm-no fire(accidental).....	71	68
False alarm (malicious).....	20	10
Electrical failure.....	6	0
Miscellaneous.....	9	17
Total	<u>523</u>	<u>504</u>

TOTAL ALARMS IN AREA

In City.....	502	481
Fire District.....	19	21
Mutual Aid.....	2	2
Total	<u>523</u>	<u>504</u>

FIRE LOCATION

In building.....	78	70
Brush or grass.....	36	19
Rubbish near building.....	1	11
Rubbish in vacant lots.....	5	3
Vehicles.....	51	48
Miscellaneous.....	30	41
Total	<u>201</u>	<u>192</u>



**CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA**

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FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

FIRE CONTROL METHODS

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
By fire department.....	171	159
By occupants.....	8	12
Automatic sprinkler.....	1	2
Out on arrival.....	15	18
Other.....	6	1
Total	<u>201</u>	<u>192</u>

FIRE CAUSES

Chimney.....	13	4
Sparks on roof.....	2	0
Defective heaters.....	2	11
Rubbish near heaters.....	6	2
Open lights, flames.....	1	1
Careless smoking.....	8	7
Children with matches.....	8	6
Careless use of matches.....	1	2
Defective wiring.....	10	5
Defective appliances.....	3	8
Flammable liquids.....	2	4
Grease on stoves.....	2	7
Fireworks.....	0	0
Spontaneous ignition.....	1	2
Lightning.....	1	0
Sparks from machinery.....	0	0
Incendiary.....	12	2
Suspicious.....	2	1
Unknown.....	0	0
Miscellaneous.....	4	8
Total	<u>78</u>	<u>70</u>

FIRE LOSS ANALYSIS

	<u>Fires</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Public building.....	9	\$ 15,150.00	0	\$ 0
Dwellings.....	48	\$190,975.00	40	\$100,620.00
Mercentiles.....	5	\$ 11,400.00	3	\$ 15,450.00
Manufacturing.....	0	\$ 0	1	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous.....	5	\$ 20,300.00	9	\$ 91,900.00
Vehicles.....	44	\$ 18,420.00	44	\$ 40,050.00



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### FIRE LOSS ANALYSIS (Cont.)

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Outdoor fire (Vehicles, etc.).....	\$ 18,420.00	\$ 40,050.00
Building fires.....	\$237,825.00	\$208,970.00
Total estimated fire loss for 1978	\$249,020.00	
Total estimated fire loss for 1979	\$256,245.00	

This fire loss is estimated at the time of fire by the Officer in charge. The insurance company then pays off to insured. This then becomes the actual fire loss.

The actual fire loss for 1979 is: \$350,701.41

### PEOPLE INJURED IN FIRES

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Civilians.....	6	6
Firefighters.....	0	1
Total	6	7

### PEOPLE KILLED IN FIRES

Civilians.....	0	1
Firefighters.....	0	0
Total	0	1



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ASST FIRE CHIEF

## TRAINING

To keep the quality of proficiency of a fire department at a high peak requires not only training in new methods of firefighting but continuous training in all aspects of firefighting. The goal of Helena Fire Department is to be able to cope with any emergency which may arise and to do so in the most professional manner possible. Members of the Helena Fire Department devote many hours each year in training and because of this are a highly trained organization.

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Classroom training.....	2,495 hours	2,024 hours
Field training.....	2,960 hours	2,988 hours
Total	<u>5,455 Hours</u>	<u>5,012 hours</u>

Following is a list of courses which were completed by members of the Helena Fire Department.

- Basic Arson.....23 members
- Apparatus..... 1 member
- Hazards of plastic..... 6 members
- Salvage & Overhaul.....26 members
- First Aid.....22 members
- Firefighter 1..... 1 member
- Firefighter 3..... 2 members
- C.P.R..... 2 members
- Productivity Seminar..... 1 member
- Hazardous Materials..... 2 members
- Rescue..... 1 member
- Public Fire Safety..... 1 member
- Sprinkler Systems.....12 members

These courses are only a portion of the training which is done by members of the Helena Fire Department. These are only the formal courses which are taken by fire department personnel. Other training consists of addresses, pump training, inspections, etc.



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## TRUCK & EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Fire apparatus and equipment are the tools of a firefighter's profession. In order to perform our duties well we have to have apparatus and equipment in top shape at all times. Many hours each year are required to keep this equipment clean and ready. The Helena Fire Department is very fortunate to have the modern up to date apparatus and equipment which we now have. A good maintenance program keeps the equipment in good shape and ready to use in an emergency situation.

The Helena Fire Department has it's own mechanic who works on shift as a firefighter. All mechanical work is done by the mechanic while he is on shift unless we have an emergency repair which requires that he be called in.

Most of the preventive maintenance is done by shift members. Following is a breakdown of man hours spent on truck and equipment maintenance by shift members.

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Equipment maintenance.....	2,585 hours	1,249 hours
Truck maintenance.....	2,192 hours	2,180 hours
Total	4,777 hours	3,429 hours

### New Fire Equipment purchased in 1979:

- Mini Pumper
- Air chisel rescue kit
- Smoke ejector
- Hose clamp
- Leader line wye
- 10 Lengths of 2½" hose
- 10 Lengths of 3" hose
- High pressure equipment washer
- 4 self contained breathing apparatus
- 3 hydrant and spanner wrench kits

We will be recieving a new 1250 G.P.M. Pumper hopefully sometime in 1980 which will be used at the East Side Fire Station.



# CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA

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FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

## OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

The Helena Fire Department has a total uniformed strength of 27 members. The Fire Chief, Asst. Fire Chief and the Fire Prevention Officer are all day shift men and the other 24 men are shift personell or combat firefighters. We work with a minimum of six (6) men on duty at all times. The six (6) men are split between the Main Fire Station and the East Side Fire Station. There are three (3) men at each station at all times. Montana Avenue is the dividing line between the two stations. One (1) truck alarms such as car fires, grass or brush fires, garbage cans, etc. are handled with one (1) truck and two (2) men for that respective side of town. If there is an alarm to a structure, the fire trucks from both stations respond with all firefighters. If we recieve a call from one of our outside protection districts a pumper and three (3) men will respond from the Main Fire Station and three (3) off duty firefighters will be called in to standby at the Main Fire Station. If we recieve a call for Mutual Aid, two (2) men and a pumper will respond from the East Side Fire Station and two (2) off duty firefighters will be called in to standby at the East Side Station. This procedure is our basic system and can be changed by the Officer in Charge if he deems it necessary.

## COMPARISONS IN MAN POWER AND PER CAPITA COSTS FOR SIMILAR SIZE CITIES

### Per Capita Costs:

All cities per capita costs.....	\$35.39
Cities of 25,000 to 49,999 per capita costs.....	\$30.96
HELENA.....	\$19.96

### Firefighters Per 1,000 population:

All Cities.....	1.64 Firefighters per 1,000
Cities of 25,000 to 49,999....	1.62 Firefighters per 1,000
HELENA.....	1.00 Firefighters per 1,000



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

TO: Norm Gray, Chief

FROM: John C. Todd, Assistant Chief

SUBJECT: 1979 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Without question, the most important, non-firefighting function of a fire department lies in the area of fire prevention. Unfortunately, an area often forgotten or overlooked altogether.

Techniques and materials used in building, manufacturing, and processing are becoming more complex. Many of these changes present new or different arrangements of hazards and in turn present new and involved problems in fire prevention.

Municipal fire prevention work has the broad objective of informing the public about fire safety and securing the cooperation of individuals and property owners in practices for their own safety as well as the safety of others. This requires the fire department to keep up a persistent program of public education. This includes use of mass news media, talks at meetings, seasonal campaigns including Fire Prevention Week and Spring Cleanup, and special programs for educating children, baby sitters, employees in business, industry, and others.

The main focus for fire department fire prevention work is inspections. This responsibility and that for most other fire prevention programs is centered in the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has the responsibility for conducting routine as well as technical fire inspections, investigation of complaints, fire and arson investigations, plan review for commercial construction and remodeling, consultation with architects, contractors, and property owners concerning all aspects of fire protection and prevention.

Therefore, if our community is to receive the total fire protection that it needs, and deserve - a complete fire prevention program is of the utmost importance - besides, it is far less costly to prevent fires than to wait until they start, then put them out.

At this point I respectfully submit the following report concerning the Helena Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau activities:

1979 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU - CONTINUED

1979 INSPECTION PROGRAM

<u>OCCUPANCY</u>	<u>NO. INSPECTIONS</u>
Assembly -----	240
Educational -----	30
Residential -----	172
Mercantile -----	418
Business -----	148
Industrial -----	162
Sub Total	1170 *
Re-inspections -----	316
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	1486

(\* 36 were new occupancy)

FOUR YEAR COMPAIRISION

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</u>
1979 -----	1486
1978 -----	1741
1977 -----	1689
1976 -----	1396

WRITTEN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Written orders and/or notices are issued to property owners and managers for the correction of code violations noted during the inspection - there were 553 such issued in 1979.

PLAN REVIEW

The Bureau reviews all plans for building construction and remodeling concerning commerical properties - there were 71 hours spent on plan reviews.

FIRE AND ARSON INVESTIGATION

47 fires were investigated by the Bureau, of which 16 were arson caused - there were five arrests, two convictions, and one pending trial.

FOUR YEAR COMPAIRISION

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FIRFS INVESTIGATED</u>	<u>ARSON</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>	<u>CONVICTIONS</u>
1979 -----	47-----	16 -----	5 -----	2 -----
1978 -----	34 -----	5 -----	2 -----	2 -----
1977 -----	49 -----	5 -----	1 -----	1 -----
1976 -----	47 -----	11 -----	6 -----	4 -----

FALSE ALARMS INVESTIGATED

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER INVESTIGATED</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>	<u>CONVICTIONS</u>
1979 -----	7 -----	3 -----	2 -----
1978 -----	0 -----	0 -----	0 -----
1977 -----	2 -----	0 -----	0 -----
1976 -----	6 -----	5 -----	5 -----

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

34 complaints were investigated such as dry grass, weeds, vacant buildings, faulty electrical and gas equipment installations, burning without permit, and exits being locked or blocked

FOUR YEAR COMPAIRISION

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED</u>
1979 -----	34 -----
1978 -----	26 -----
1977 -----	26 -----
1976 -----	30 -----

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Bureau has a monthly radio spot on one of the local stations, KBLL, in which the public is informed of all aspects of fire prevention. The program usually runs for about forty-five minutes and has proven very successfull. From time to time the local T.V. station and newspaper are used to inform our citizens.

The Bureau has conducted 40 lectures and demonstrations reaching over 1500 people.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION FOUR YEAR COMPAIRISION

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. LECTURES and DEMONSTRATIONS</u>	<u>NO. PEOPLE</u>
1797 -----	40 -----	1500 -----
1978 -----	49 -----	4621 -----
1977 -----	34 -----	1601 -----
1976 -----	30 -----	1135 -----

1980 OBJECTIVES

1. FIRE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The objective here is to conduct one complete inspection and enforce Uniform Fire Code and related fire and life safety regulations in all the following occupancies; public assemblies, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, industrial, mercantile, business, and other inspections as are required.

2. PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

To expand and improve this program so our citizens can be educated in fire prevention thereby adding to the success of the overall program.

3. OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

To continue to fully cooperate with the other departments within the City thereby helping to insure the success of the "team effort".

4. COMMENTS

To implement items 1 and 2, and to continue our ongoing programs with any degree of success, also to insure total effectiveness - it is imperative that the strength of the Fire Prevention Bureau be increased by two members.



# CITY OF HELENA ★ STATE OF MONTANA

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NORM GRAY  
FIRE CHIEF

JOHN C. TODD  
ASS'T FIRE CHIEF

## FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS

At the present time the City of Helena has several Fire Protection Contracts with areas outside the City Limits. These include the Veteran's Administration Hospital, the County Fairgrounds, the State Hiway Shops, the IOOF Home, and the area west of the city which is Fire District #3. We cover these areas with one (1) pumper and three (3) men. The cost of the fire protection for these areas is computed by taking the valuation based on fire insurance and multiplying that figure by mill levy necessary for operating the Helena Fire Department. The cost for taxpayers in the Fire District is computed on the same basis as the people who live in the City Limits. The private protection contracts are re-negotiated each year after it is determined what the operational budget for the Helena Fire Department is. In 1980 all contracts will be re-written and will start on October 1 of each year and end September 30 of each year.

Following is a breakdown of the money recieved by the City of Helena from these contracts.

VETERNS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL.....	\$13,276.00	per year
COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.....	\$ 1,701.42	per year
ODD FELLOWS HOME (IOOF).....	\$ 287.10	per year
HIWAY SHOPS.....	\$ 593.11	per year
FIRE DISTRICT #3.....	\$15,684.12	per year
	Total	\$31,541.75 per year

The Helena Fire Department also has two (2) Mutual Aid Contracts. These contracts are with the West Helena Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the East Helena Volunteer Fire Department. These contracts state that in the event of large fire the Helena Fire Department would recieve one (1) pumper and ten (10) men from each Fire Department for a total of two (2) pumpers and twenty (20) men. If either of the Volunteer Fire Departments should need our help, we are obligated to send one (1) pumper and two (2) men.